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November 29, 2004

To: Public

From: Councilman Rod Tam *RZ*
Chairman, Public Works & Economic Development
Committee

Re: Landfill Public Meeting On November 29, 2004
At City Hall

Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. Thank you for attending today's public meeting to formally hear the public viewpoints on the site selection of a future landfill beyond the year 2008.

I wish to make the following introductory remarks to set the mood for a positive dialog between testifiers and city councilmembers.

- Today's public meetings along with the past 10 plus public meetings under the Public Works & Economic Development Committee embraces a democratic open

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hearing process in accordance to the City & County of Honolulu's City Charter. The public is given the opportunity to voice their ideas for legislation in the governance of the public's livelihood use of public funds, especially in the site selection of a future landfill for the City. I wish to thank community people in bringing forth their ideas, although others criticize those ideas. In fact, I believe in people's right to participate in our form of democracy so much that I, as a committee chairman allow those ideas to be discussed in the legislative process and take the chance to be criticized as the one who introduced those ideas. "If one wants to embrace Democracy one pays the cost of criticism in sharing ideas of others publicly."

Today, out of respect to all testifiers with landfill site suggestions, I ask testifiers who wish to comment on site suggestions to address the comments to this committee and not to those who made the suggestions. All testifiers are within their right to express their thoughts and ideas. In fact, I discourage my fellow colleagues in criticizing testifiers thoughts and ideas.

- I fully embrace the public hearing process. Only through dragged-out public hearings, can I assure true democracy, otherwise, outside money forces will dictate the decisions of the people's elected

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city council. The 10 plus public hearings through the Public Works & Economic Development Committee has been worthwhile. Once again, I present to you two documents. I ask my fellow councilmembers and the public to use the documents in the selection of a future landfill site. Those 2 documents are:

1. 10 factors in the selection of a future landfill.
2. Public Works & Economic Development Committee's Summary Report On Its Findings During Its Landfill Site Selection Process.

The 2 documents were not disclosed by the news media to the public although I presented the documents to them and the documents are public. Copies are available through my office.

- I wish to take this opportunity to thank Mayor Jeremy Harris for his most recent decision in his desire to continue the use of Waimamalo Gulch as the future landfill site after 2008. Previously the mayor wanted to close the landfill. Hopefully, the city council will find an alternative to a landfill through the use of technology in processing solid waste before the year 2008. Per the State of Hawaii's Land Use Commission, a future landfill site must be selected by December 1, 2004. Therefore, the city council will name a landfill site for now.

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- Selecting a future landfill site is a difficult task. No community wants a landfill in their backyard. Therefore, the Public Works & Economic Development Committee's direction after December 1, 2004 is to focus on finding and using technology as an alternative to public landfills. In fact, the city council and the Hannemann city administration can work together in using the publicly owned land next door to H-Power in Campbell Industrial Park to process solid waste through technology. Thus, the land would not be used as a "landfill".
- Due to residents informing this committee at its Friday, November 19, 2004 public meeting of the flying trash and odor from Waimamalo Gulch landfill within their community, this committee is now formulating oversight and remedy plans with the State of Hawaii's Department of Health, Waste Management, Inc. (management of Waimamalo Gulch), community representatives, and city administration.

The democratic public hearing process is an open structured process in resolving public problems.